

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn/Currently Amended): A method for selective measurement of triglycerides contained in very low density lipoprotein and intermediate density lipoprotein ~~or in very low density lipoprotein~~ in a test sample, comprising ~~the following two steps:~~

~~a first step which comprises~~

[[1'.]] 1) exposing and reacting the test sample to and with (a) a first lipoprotein lipase, and some other enzymes, which (b) enzymes catalyzing catalyze a series of reactions leading to the generation of hydrogen peroxide or a reduced coenzyme from glycerol, in the presence of a first selective reaction promoter, which is an ether or ester compound of a polyoxyalkylene capable of reacting the first lipoprotein lipase selectively with triglycerides contained in low density lipoprotein and high density lipoprotein, to generate hydrogen peroxide or a reduced coenzyme from the triglycerides contained in the low density lipoprotein and the high density lipoprotein in the test sample, and (c) an enzyme catalyzing a reaction leading to the conversion of the generated hydrogen peroxide or the reduced coenzyme into another substance,

thereby eliminating the triglycerides contained in the low density lipoprotein and the high density lipoprotein,

~~2'. reacting the hydrogen peroxide or reduced coenzyme generated by the reaction 1' with an enzyme which catalyzes a reaction leading to the conversion of hydrogen peroxide or a reduced coenzyme into another substance, and~~

~~3'. eliminating the triglycerides contained in the low density lipoprotein and the high density lipoprotein by the reactions of 1' and 2',~~

and

~~a second step which comprises~~

[[1'.]] 2) subsequently, ~~after the first step~~, reacting the test sample with (a) a second lipoprotein lipase, and ~~some other enzymes, which catalyze~~ (b) enzymes catalyzing a series of reactions leading to the generation of hydrogen peroxide or a reduced coenzyme from glycerol, in the presence of a second selective reaction promoter, which is an ether or ester compound of a polyoxyalkylene capable of reacting the second lipoprotein lipase selectively with triglycerides contained in very low density lipoprotein, intermediate density lipoprotein, low density lipoprotein and high density lipoprotein, to generate hydrogen peroxide or a reduced coenzyme from the triglycerides contained in the very low density lipoprotein and the intermediate density lipoprotein ~~or in the very low density lipoprotein~~, and

[[2'.]] 3) measuring the hydrogen peroxide or reduced coenzyme generated in step (3) ~~by the reaction 1'~~,

wherein the activity of the first lipoprotein lipase ~~contained in the first reagent~~ depends on the concentration of a surfactant, while the activity of the second lipoprotein lipase ~~contained in the second reagent~~ hardly depends on the concentration of the surfactant, and

a m/n ratio is in the range of 1.1 to 1.2, where m is the average mole number of the added polyoxyalkylene in its ether or ester compound which is used as the first selective reaction promoter and n is the average mole number of the added polyoxyalkylene in its ether or ester compound which is used as the second selective reaction promoter.

Claims 2-3 (Cancelled):

Claim 4 (Withdrawn/Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1 [[3]], wherein m is in the range of 7.7 to 18 and n is in the range of 7 to 15.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn/Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1 [[3]], wherein m is in the range of 11 to 12 and n is 10.

Claim 6 (Withdrawn/Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ether or ester compound of a polyoxyalkylene which is used as the first selective reaction promoter is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of polyoxyalkylene straight-chain alkyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene branched-chain alkyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene straight-chain alkylphenyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene branched-chain alkylphenyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene straight-chain fatty acid esters, polyoxyalkylene branched-chain fatty acid esters, polyoxyalkylene straight-chain alkyl substituted benzoic acid esters and polyoxyalkylene branched-chain alkyl substituted benzoic acid esters.

Claim 7 (Withdrawn/Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the ether or ester compound of a polyoxyalkylene used as the second selective reaction promoter is at least one ~~ether or ester compound of a polyoxyalkylene~~ compound selected from the group consisting of polyoxyalkylene straight-chain alkyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene branched-chain alkyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene straight-chain alkylphenyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene branched-chain alkylphenyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene straight-chain fatty acid esters, polyoxyalkylene branched-chain fatty acid esters, polyoxyalkylene straight-chain alkyl substituted benzoic acid esters and polyoxyalkylene branched-chain alkyl substituted benzoic acid esters.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein the polyoxyalkylene is polyoxyethylene.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, wherein the first selective reaction promoter is polyoxyethylene nonylphenyl ether in which the average mole number of added polyoxyethylene m is in the range of 11 to 12 and the second selective reaction promoter is polyoxyethylene nonylphenyl ether in which the average mole number of added polyoxyethylene n is 10.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn/Currently Amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein the steps (1) to (3) ~~first step and/or the steps (2) to (3) second step is~~ are carried out in the presence of at least one [[a]] reaction assistant.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): The method according to claim 10, wherein the reaction assistant is a polysaccharide or derivative thereof, a polyanion, a halogen ion, a metal ion, or lectin.

Claim 12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A ~~reagent~~ kit for selective measurement of triglycerides contained in very low density lipoprotein and intermediate density lipoprotein ~~or in very low density lipoprotein~~ in a test sample, comprising:

a first reagent that comprises: a first selective reaction promoter, which is an ether or ester compound of a polyoxyalkylene capable of reacting a first lipoprotein lipase selectively with triglycerides contained in low density lipoprotein and high density lipoprotein; [[a]] the first lipoprotein lipase; enzymes which catalyze a series of reactions leading to the generation of hydrogen peroxide or a reduced coenzyme from glycerol; and an enzyme which catalyzes

a reaction leading to the conversion of hydrogen peroxide or a reduced coenzyme into another substance[[],]; ~~and~~

a second reagent that comprises: a second selective reaction promoter, which is an ether or ester compound of a polyoxyalkylene capable of reacting a second lipoprotein lipase selectively with triglycerides contained in very low density lipoprotein, intermediate density lipoprotein, low density lipoprotein and high density lipoprotein; and [[a]] the second lipoprotein lipase[[],];

wherein the activity of the first lipoprotein lipase ~~contained in the first reagent~~ depends on the concentration of a surfactant, while the activity of the second lipoprotein lipase ~~contained in the second reagent~~ hardly depends on the concentration of the surfactant, and

a m/n ratio is in the range of 1.1 to 1.2, where m is the average mole number of the added polyoxyalkylene in its ether or ester compound which is used as the first selective reaction promoter and n is the average mole number of the added polyoxyalkylene in its ether or ester compound which is used as the second selective reaction promoter.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The reagent kit according to claim 13, wherein the first reagent and/or the second reagent further comprises a substance which is involved in a reaction leading to the derivation of ~~some~~ a signal from hydrogen peroxide or a reduced coenzyme.

Claims 15-16 (Cancelled):

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The reagent kit according to claim 13 ~~16~~, wherein m is in the range of 7.7 to 18 and n is in the range of 7 to 15.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The ~~reagent~~ kit according to claim ~~13~~ 16, wherein m is in the range of 11 to 12 and n is 10.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The ~~reagent~~ kit according to claim 13, wherein the ether or ester compound of a polyoxyalkylene used as the first selective reaction promoter is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of polyoxyalkylene straight-chain alkyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene branched-chain alkyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene straight-chain alkylphenyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene branched-chain alkylphenyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene straight-chain fatty acid esters, polyoxyalkylene branched-chain fatty acid esters, polyoxyalkylene straight-chain alkyl substituted benzoic acid esters and polyoxyalkylene branched-chain alkyl substituted benzoic acid esters.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The ~~reagent~~ kit according to claim 13, wherein the ether or ester compound of a polyoxyalkylene used as the second selective reaction promoter is at least one compound ~~ether or ester compound of a polyoxyalkylene~~ selected from the group consisting of polyoxyalkylene straight-chain alkyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene branched-chain alkyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene straight-chain alkylphenyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene branched-chain alkylphenyl ethers, polyoxyalkylene straight-chain fatty acid esters, polyoxyalkylene branched-chain fatty acid esters, polyoxyalkylene straight-chain alkyl substituted benzoic acid esters and polyoxyalkylene branched-chain alkyl substituted benzoic acid esters.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The ~~reagent~~ kit according to claim 13, wherein the polyoxyalkylene is polyoxyethylene.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The ~~reagent~~ kit according to claim 13, wherein the first selective reaction promoter is polyoxyethylene nonylphenyl ether in which the average mole number of added polyoxyethylene m is in the range of 11 to 12 and the second selective reaction promoter is polyoxyethylene nonylphenyl ether in which the average mole number of added polyoxyethylene n is 10.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The ~~reagent~~ kit according to claim 13, wherein the first reagent and/or the second reagent further comprises a at least one reaction assistant.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The ~~reagent~~ kit according to claim 23, wherein the reaction assistant is a polysaccharide or derivative thereof, a polyanion, a halogen ion, a metal ion, or lectin.

Claims 25-37 (Cancelled).

Claim 38 (New): The kit according to claim 13, further comprising an instruction for conducting selective measurements of triglycerides contained in very low density lipoprotein and intermediate density lipoprotein.

Claim 39 (New): The kit according to claim 13, wherein the ingredients of the first and/or the second reagent are divided into two or more groups which are kept in separate packages and/or containers.